

Culture Capital

Liverpool's cultural venues broke box-office records galore in 2008 and Merseyside's economy prepared to grow by £1.3bn.

Being European Capital of Culture generated an overall figure of £800m for the local economy

Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture saw the region's tourism and leisure sectors experience unprecedented growth. By the final quarter of 2008, Liverpool had attracted an amazing 3.5 million first-time visitors. This surge in cultural tourism saw Liverpool rise up the UK league table as the third favourite city to visit and fourth most visited.

Capital of Culture highlights:

- Tate Liverpool recorded a 200% visitor rise on 2007 from June to August, when it hosted the specially commissioned Gustav Klimt exhibition.
- Tate Liverpool and Merseyside Maritime both broke the one million visitor mark for the first time.

- National Museums Liverpool welcomed its two millionth visitor in September 2008 – marking its busiest ever year.

The city's summer events programme, which included The Tall Ships' Races, Mathew Street Music Festival, Go Superlambananas and the spectacular 50ft roaming spider La Machine, attracted 5.2 million people to the city. Autumn marked the start of a blockbuster season, with major events such as the MTV Europe Music Awards and BBC Sports Personality of The Year.

By the end of 2008 nearly 60 world premieres in music, film, theatre and art were staged in Liverpool alongside over 6,000 community events, from

The Tall Ships' 'Parade of Sail'

